Regional Water Authority Building Alliances in Northern California

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June 9, 2011



Bill George, Chair Marty Hanneman, Vice Chair

Members

California American Water
Carmichael Water District
Citrus Heights Water District
Del Paso Manor Water District
El Dorado Irrigation District

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Sacramento County Water Agency

Sacramento Suburban Water District

San Juan Water District

West Sacramento, City of

Associates

El Dorado County Water Agency

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Trevor Joseph
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Dear Mr. Joseph:

Please accept and consider the comments below in making a final determination of funding under the Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Program. I first want to commend DWR staff for the effort put into the review of applications in such a timely manner, and express appreciation for the funding recommendation for the American River Basin (ARB) IRWM proposal.

We appreciate staff's recognition that IRWM regions that overlap funding area boundaries, such as the ARB region, require special consideration. This is reflected in the recommendation to fund the ARB proposal from both the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River funding areas. However, only partial funding was recommended from the San Joaquin River funding area. This shortfall would impact two projects from a regional package of 15. Although the reduction is relatively small (\$191,000) it could potentially reduce the scope and benefits of these two projects, as local cost share is already highly leveraged in the regional proposal.

Staff suggested in the May 31 public meeting that additional funds, beyond the recommended \$200 million, has been appropriated by the legislature for this program. We respectfully request that DWR fully fund the ARB proposal from both the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River funding areas if the decision is made to commit additional funds. Notably, the San Joaquin River funding area was allocated only 105% of the amount identified in the PSP, compared to as much as 160% in other funding areas.

If the absolute amount of the recommended funding cannot be increased, we request the opportunity to work with staff to spread the reduction in funding more equitably across the 15 projects in the proposal, with the appropriate accounting of funds in the two funding areas.

Thank you again for the funding recommendation that recognized the value of the projects proposed in the American River Basin Region. We look forward to working with DWR staff to implement these important projects. Please contact me or Rob Swartz at (916) 967-7692 if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

In

John Woodling Executive Director